

Budget Update – Kera Bumbray Report

The Board of Elections (BOE) is projecting a FY2021 fiscal deficit of at least \$2M. The Budget Spreadsheet displays charges to BOE account. However, expense totals reimbursed by Montgomery County's Coronavirus Relief Fund (CFR) or charged to the grant award by the Center for Tech and Civic Life (grant) are not included. Expenditures from the CFR, and the grant are each tracked in separate journals. This is relevant when considering an accurate cost of the Election. For example, BOE funds paid \$641,731 in overtime, an additional \$61,042 was paid by grant funds, and \$318,237 was paid by the CFR. Total overtime expenditures were \$1,021,010. Similarly, total seasonal temp expenditures were \$887,146, and election judge stipends were \$1,677,287.

Our remaining budget ceiling is also misleading, as the Department has many outstanding financial commitments. The most important of these, is the Department's commitment to staff. Estimated personnel expenses for the remainder of year are over \$1M. Intra-county commitments include, outstanding billing to the Department of Technology for laptops purchased for Vote Center and repurposed for teleworking employees. The largest of BOE's outstanding commitments is Maryland State Board of Elections fees, which are expected to be an additional \$2M excluding SeaChange billings, the vendor of the outgoing Vote by Mail packets.